

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ARIZONA STRIP FIELD OFFICE
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW**

CX-AZ-110-2005-0026

PROJECT TITLE: Johnson Waste Wood Disposal

PROJECT LEAD: Aaron Wilkerson

PROPOSED ACTION: The BLM proposes to contract the removal of 25 to 50 thousand cubic yards of waste wood material from approximately 31 acres in Johnson Wash. The Contractor will strip and stockpile top soil and mulch at a 2:1 ratio for rehabilitation purposes prior to removing mulch from the site. The waste wood will then be removed at a rate of approximately 5,000 cubic yards annually, with the use of back-hoe/loader rubber tire and or track type equipment. The Contractor will work in 2 to 3 acre increments, completing one area before moving to the next area in sequence.

The Contractor proposes to leave the mulch located in the wash fingers in place while moving toward the main drainage. By landscaping away from the main drainage, the terrain will be sculpted with low rolling contours. Upon completion of a 2-3 acre section, the stockpiled top soil will be replaced and the area will be seeded by the use of hand operated spreaders to grasses and forbs.

The Johnson Wash site was used for decades by Kaibab Industries and later by Larry Reidhead and Danny Peterson to dispose of chips and dust from their sawmill operations. Within recent years, there have been several instances of spontaneous combustion within the chip piles. The resulting fires have been extremely difficult to extinguish and at a considerable expense. This proposal will virtually eliminate the risk of further spontaneous combustion while providing a small income to the Government.

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed project is located in Coconino County, Arizona and is within the area legally described as follows: (map showing project location is attached)

T. 40 N., R. 2 W., sections 3 and 10; Gila and Salt River Meridian

PERSONS AND AGENCIES CONSULTED:

The Johnson Run Allotment Permittee, Duane Swapp

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is not inconsistent or in conflict with any decisions in the 1992 Arizona Strip Resource Management Plan (as amended 1998), as required by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). The Proposed Action was designed in conformance with all bureau standards and incorporates appropriate guidelines for specific required and desired conditions relevant to project activities. Due to the unordinary circumstances of this project the RMP is silent on this particular type of activity; however, the decision is in accordance with the RMP.

Specific RMP decisions that may apply to this scenario include:

GZ01 Manage rangelands in accordance with multiple-use objectives, requirements and provisions of established laws, regulations and BLM policies, and the Vermillion Grazing Environmental Impact Statement and Allotment Management Plans, which specify grazing systems, management facilities and land treatments.

GZ21 Vegetative treatment projects will be implemented where plant cover or soil productivity is being lost, to achieve a desired plant community, to improve habitat conditions for wildlife or to meet activity plan objectives. Practices used to accomplish this include mechanical treatments, herbicide applications, biological treatments, prescribed fire, reseeding and construction of water control structures as described in the Vermillion Grazing Environmental Impact Statement (1979) and the Programmatic Vegetation Treatment on BLM-Administered Land Environmental Impact Statement (1991).

GZ23 Clean up woody debris in old chainings within travel influence zones and reseed forb, grass and browse species.

FW03 Utilize personal and commercial woodland harvest activities to achieve other resource program goals and objectives.

FW04 In forest management activities, ensure protection of natural aesthetics, recreation, special status species, cultural resources, and other multiple-use values.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 6, C. (Forestry) 5: Disposal of small amounts of miscellaneous vegetation products outside established harvest areas, such as Christmas trees, wildings, floral products (ferns, boughs, etc.), cones, seeds, and personal use firewood.

The application of this categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects which may significantly affect the environment. These extraordinary circumstances are contained in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2. and will be addressed below.

We have considered a controlled burning of the site, but the large amounts of smoke and the enormous costs in manpower and equipment would be prohibitive. The proposed action will be less intrusive and will still achieve the desired results.

The proposal has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply. Surname(s) verify completion of this review by appropriate specialists.

NAME	LIST OF EXCLUSION CRITERIA
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- Shurtz** 1. The proposal would have no adverse effects on public health or safety.
- Folks** 2. The proposal would not adversely affect unique geographic characteristics such as park, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, wild and scenic
- Spotts** rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks.
- Herron** 3. The proposal would have no adverse effects on historic or cultural resources.
- Spotts** 4. The proposal would have no highly controversial environmental effects.
- Spotts** 5. The proposal would have no highly uncertain or potentially significant environmental effects nor does it involve unique or unknown environmental risks.
- Spotts** 6. The proposal would not establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.
- Spotts** 7. The proposal is not directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant effects.
- Herron** 8. The proposal would not adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Hughes** 9. The proposal would not adversely affect a plant species listed or proposed to be listed on the list of endangered and threatened species, nor have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species.
- Herder** 10. The proposal would not adversely affect an animal species listed or proposed to be listed on the list of endangered and threatened species, nor have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species.
- Herder** 11. The proposal would not require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management).
- Herder** 12. The proposal would not require compliance with Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act:
- Benson** 13. The proposal does not threaten to violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or

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requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

Wilkerson 14. The proposal is in conformance with the Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (January, 1992)

DECISION: We have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposal is in conformance with the approved land use plan, that it would have no significant environmental effects, and that no further environmental analysis is required.

REVIEWED BY: _____

DATE:

Environmental Coordinator - Arizona Strip

IT IS MY DECISION TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSAL, AS DESCRIBED, WITH THE STIPULATIONS IN THE ATTACHMENT.

APPROVED BY: _____

DATE:

Field Manager - Arizona Strip

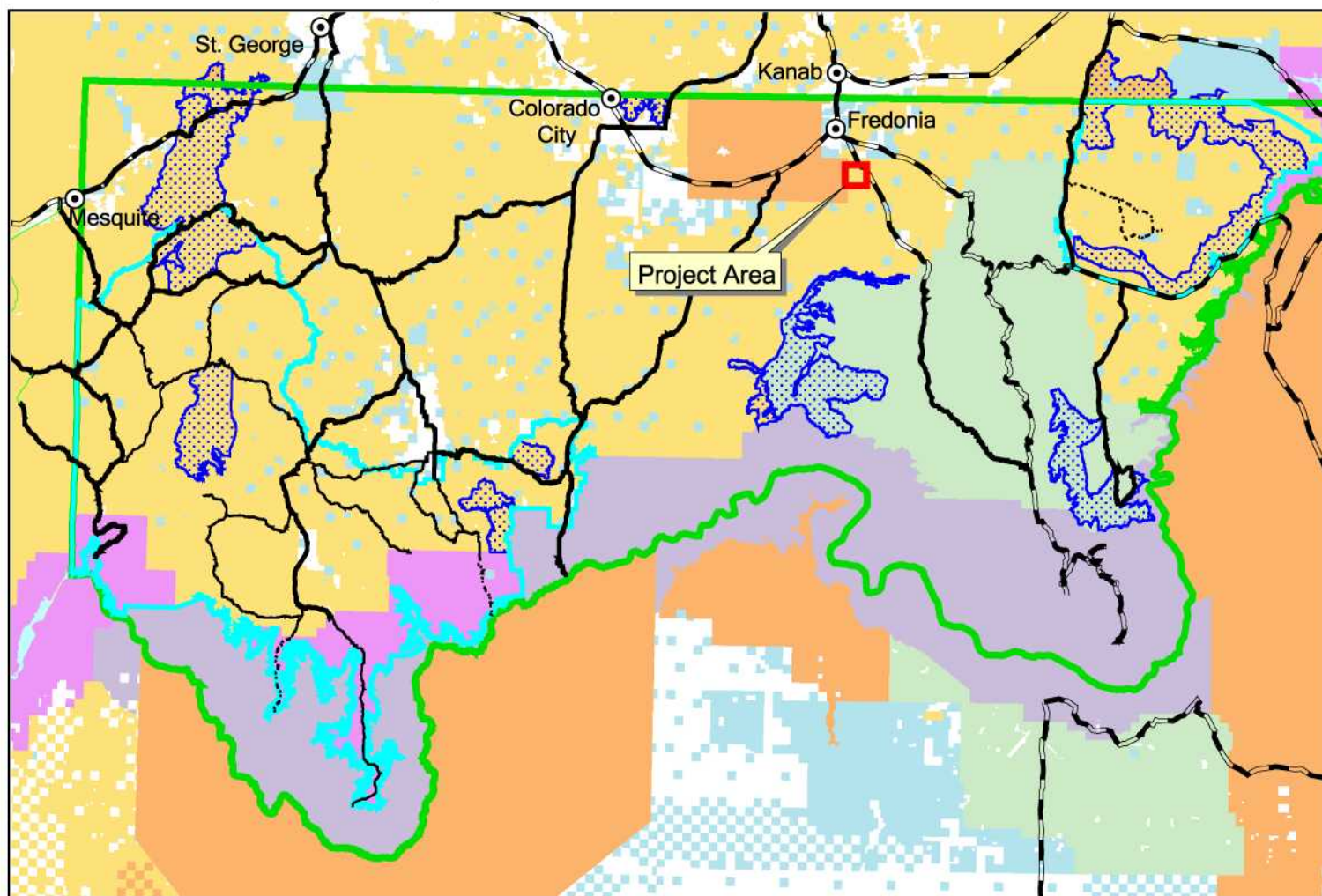
List of Stipulations or Mitigation Measures:

1. The Contractor will operate in accordance with a plan of operations approved by the Contracting Officer. (See attachments)
2. No operations will be allowed during wet or muddy conditions.
3. If in connection with operations under this project, the Contractor, his contractors, sub-contractors, or the employees of any of them, discovers, encounters or becomes aware of any objects or sites of cultural value on the project area such as historical or prehistoric ruins, graves or grave markers, fossils, or artifacts, the Contractor will immediately suspend all operations in the vicinity of the cultural value and notify the Authorized Officer of the findings. Operations may resume at the discovery site upon receipt of written instructions and authorization by the Authorized Officer.
4. All seeding operations will be completed by the BLM with the use of hand operated broadcast seeders. Application rates and seed species mix will be determined by the recommendations given from the BLM, AZSFO Range staff.

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5. All equipment used on the project area must be cleaned and free of debris that may in effect disperse seed from previous operations. In addition, all equipment must be in proper working order and equipped with spark arresters.

Johnson Wash Waste Wood Disposal



Location Map for Johnson Wash Project BLM Arizona Strip Field Office

10 0 10 20 Miles

- ⊙ Population Centers
- Transportation
 - Primary Road Paved
 - Primary Road Unpaved
 - Secondary Road Unpaved
 - 4WD
 - Dual Lane Paved
- Monuments
- Arizona Strip Field Office
- Wilderness
- Surface Ownership
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Indian Reservation
 - National Park Service
 - National Recreation Area (NPS)
 - Private
 - State
 - US Forest Service

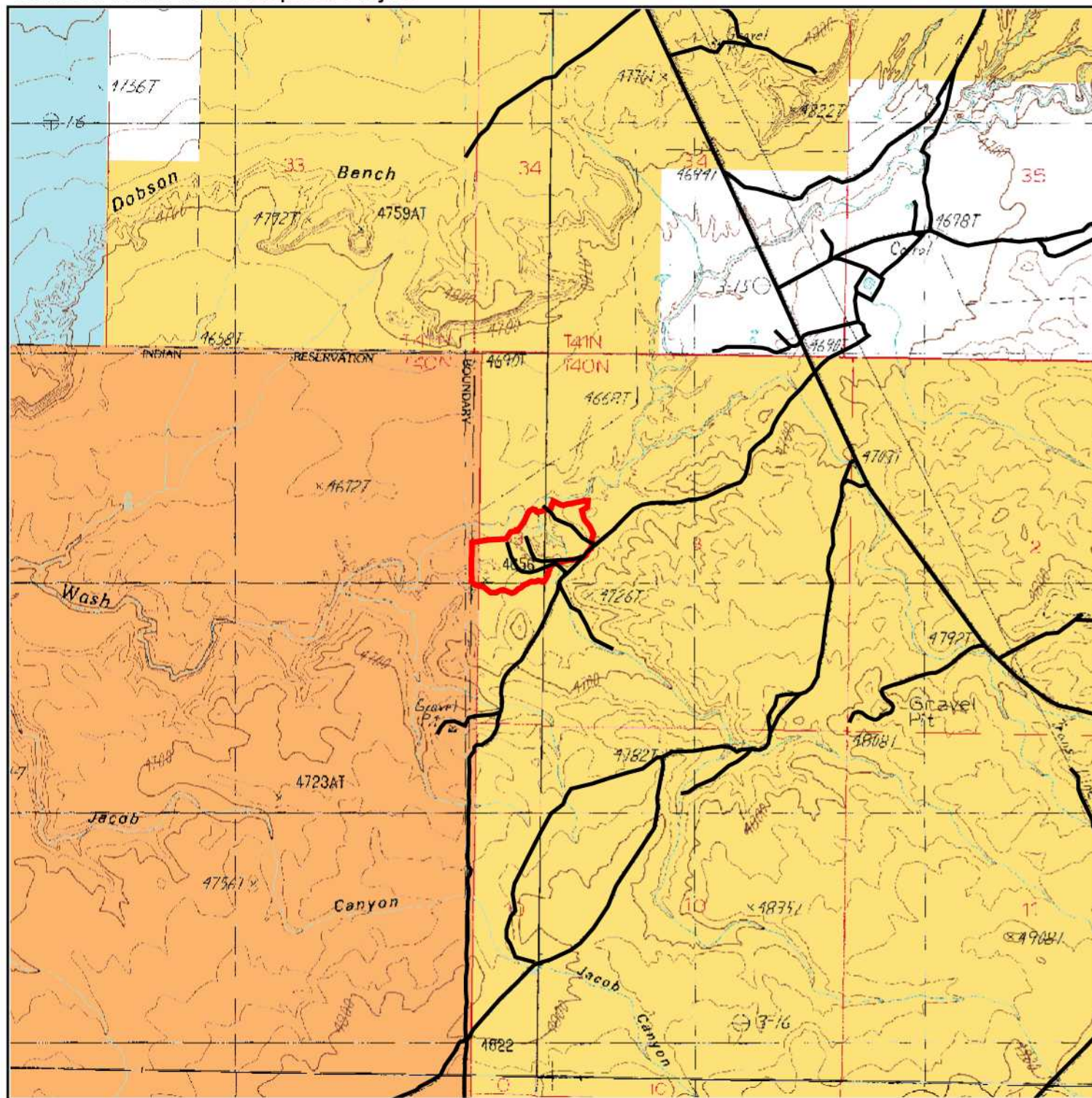
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Arizona Strip GIS Team
January 11, 2005



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Johnson Wash Wood Disposal Project



Project Area = 31 Acres

- Project Area
- Transportation
- Bureau of Land Management
- Native American Reservation

Contract Map
BLM-Arizona Strip Field Office
T340N R 2W, Sec 3 & 10
Gila & Salt Meridian

Produced by
Arizona Strip GIS Team
January 13, 2005

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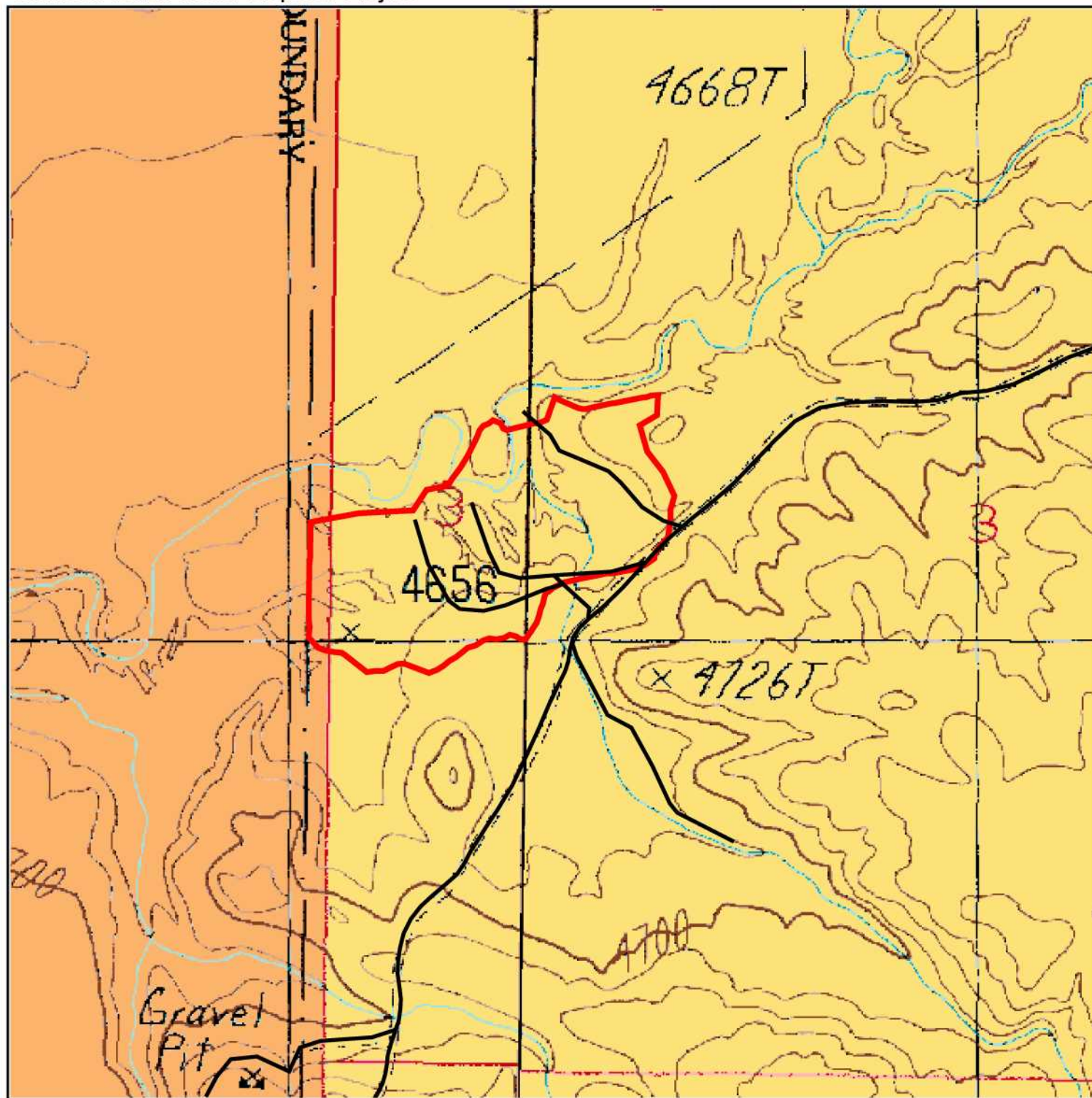
Scale = 1:24,000

0.5

0

0.5 Miles

Johnson Wash Wood Disposal Project



Project Area = 31 Acres

-  Project Area
-  Transportation
-  Surface Ownership
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Native American Reservation

Contract Map
BLM-Arizona Strip Field Office
T340N R 2W, Sec 3 & 10
Gila & Salt Meridian

Produced by
Arizona Strip GIS Team
June 14, 2004

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Scale = 1:8,000

500 0 500 1000 1500 Feet